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ABSTRACT

Recent books portraying children who are experiencing family changes due to divorce and adjusting to stepparents have become more plentiful. Reading about how others have handled similar situations can be helpful for your children, giving them perspective, awareness of some of their feelings, fears, or mistaken ideas, and suggesting ways to solve problems. Many children's books are helpful for parents, too--not just to read but also to use as a starting point in discussions. Honest communication about what is happening seems to help children learn coping skills and become more able to contribute to the effective functioning of the family--albeit a single parent family. The following bibliography was prepared by the PWP Information Center and a representative of the Committee on Liaison with National Organizations Serving the Child of the American Library Association. Books for younger children are listed first. Following are books showing the approximate school grade, although children may vary in reading comprehension level. Last, nonfiction books for children, young adults and parents have been included. (Author)

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Parents Without Partners, Inc.

An international non-profit, non-sectarian educational organization devoted to the welfare and interests of single parents and their children

SEPARATION AND DIVORCE: ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF SELECTED LITERATURE FOR CHILDREN AND TEENS. ALSO, RECOMMENDED READING FOR PARENTS.

Recent books portraying children who are experiencing family changes due to divorce and adjusting to stepparents have become more plentiful. Reading about how others have handled similar situations can be helpful for your children, giving them perspective, awareness of some of their feelings, fears, or mistaken ideas, and suggesting ways to solve problems. Many children's books are helpful for parents, too...not just to read but also to use as a starting point in discussions. Honest communication about what is happening seems to help children learn coping skills and become more able to contribute to the effective functioning of the family - albeit a single parent family.

The following bibliography was prepared by the PWP Information Center and a representative of the Committee on Liaison with National Organizations Serving the Child of the American Library Association. Books for younger children are listed first. Following are books showing the approximate school grade, although children may vary in reading comprehension level. Last, nonfiction books for children, young adults and parents have been included.

Your children's librarian or school library can be helpful in finding these and other books for your particular situation.

PRESCHOOL AND BEGINNING READERS

Adams, Florence. MUSHY EGGS. Putnam's, 1973.
The story of a family managing well after divorce.

Clifton, Lucile. EVERETT ANDERSON'S FRIEND. Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1976.
Everett's mother is angry because he lost his housekey. He thinks about what his father might have said if he had been there. Resolves positively.

F

Eichler, Margaret. MARTIN'S FATHER. Lollipop Power, 1971.
A matter-of-fact presentation of daily life of a boy who lives with his father.

Goff, Beth. WHERE IS DADDY? THE STORY OF A DIVORCE. Beacon Press, 1969.
A little girl learns not to blame herself for her parents' divorce. Criticised for its super sad quality, it may be most useful in stimulating discussion of a young child's fears.

F

Kindred, Wendy. LUCKY WILMA. Dial Press, 1973.
A loving father visits his young daughter every Saturday. Demonstrates that visitation, especially shared time rather than places, is something positive a youngster can count on.

KEY: F - Positive father-child relationship
* - Recommended
T - Young adult, IYC (PWP International Youth Council), Teen interests.

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Lexau, Joan. EMILY AND THE KLUNKY BABY AND THE NEXT DOOR DOG. Dial Press, 1972.
Emily's feelings of being neglected after her parents' divorce are finally resolved. Good messages for parents in this book.

Pursell, Margaret Sanford. A LOOK AT DIVORCE. Lerner, 1976.
Text and photographs describe changes children and parents may make following divorce. Generally positive attitudes. Pictures make it a good book to read and discuss with little ones.

Rogers, Helen Spelman. MORRIS AND HIS BRAVE LION. McGraw-Hill, 1975.
Touching treatment of divorce for a young child, despite the unrealistic story ending which may give false hopes to a child who wishes his parents to reunite.

Surowiecki, Sandra. JOSHUA'S DAY. Lollipop Power, 1972.
Joshua is coping with living with his mother and going to a Day Care Center. Positive, specific book.

* F Thomas, Ianthe. ELIZA'S DADDY. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1976.
The young heroine has feelings about father's remarriage that are eased by visiting his new "family." Jealousy and fears are resolved in this LET ME READ book.

Zindel, Paul. I LOVE MY MOTHER. Harper and Row, 1975.
A small boy's story about his single parent mother, who not only cooks but teaches him to kick a football.

---------- BOOKS BY GRADE LEVEL ----------

3rd-5th F Anker, Charlotte. LAST NIGHT I SAW ANDROMEDA, Walch, 1975.
Eleven year old Jenny discovers she really needn't try so hard to earn her divorced father's love and appreciation.

5th-9th Alexander, Ann. TO LIVE A LIE. Atheneum, 1975.
Tale of a 12 year old who imagines herself unloved and unwanted by divorcing parents. She lies and fibs to give herself a new identity.

7th-up 1 Arundel, Honor. A FAMILY FAILING. Thomas Nelson, 1972.
A girl grows up after parents' separation and learns to view her parents as people independently from herself. Story set in Scotland.

4th-6th Blue, Rose. A MONTH OF SUNDAYS. Franklin Watts, 1972.
Divorce and change do not mean disaster for 10 year old Jeffrey, who soon understands that his parents must also readjust. Some stereotyped ideas regarding the role of women.

4th-7th * Blume, Judy. IT'S NOT THE END OF THE WORLD. Bradbury Press, 1972.
Karen and her sister cope with their feelings after divorce. Helpful for those experiencing similar situations.

5th-8th F Butterworth, W.E. STEVE BELLAMY. Little, Brown and Co., 1970.
After his mother and stepfather were killed in an auto accident, Steve goes to live with his father, whom he had never met. For children learning to accept new ways and new places.

5th-8th Cleaver, Vera and Bill. ELLEN GRAE. Lippincott, 1967.
A girl survives the aftermath of her parents' divorce, even though she does not live with either of them. The divorce itself is not handled in this tale set in Appalachia.

3rd-5th Clymer, Eleanor. LUKE WAS THERE. Holt Rinehart & Winston, 1973.
It seemed that whenever Julius began to rely on an adult, something would go wrong. His father left, his mother was in the hospital and he must stay in a children's home. He develops a secure relationship with Luke, a social worker.

3rd-6th Ewing, Kathryn. A PRIVATE MATTER. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1975.
Marcy must give up her dream father, an elderly man next door, for the reality of her mother's second marriage. Tender story.

4th-9th Green, Constance. A GIRL CALLED AL. Viking, 1969.
Alexandra is unhappy and finds her father's money for support is no substitute for his love. Useful if other books are read to give a more positive perspective.

4th-9th Green, Constance. I KNOW YOU AL. Viking, 1975.
The sequel in which Al attends her father's wedding.

4th-9th Gripe, Maria. THE NIGHT DADDY. Delacorte Press, 1971.
Mother works at night. The young heroine becomes friends with the baby sitter. A solution for this family.

6th-up T Holland, Isabelle. THE MAN WITHOUT A FACE. Lippincott, 1972.
A somewhat controversial story about a much divorced mother and her family. Charlie has quite a time adjusting, but is helped by his friendship with an older man.

6th-up T F Holland, Isabelle. OF LOVE AND DEATH AND OTHER JOURNEYS. Lippincott, 1975.
After a nomadic existence with her mother, Meg learns her mother is dying and she must live with her father whom she does not remember. After a bad start, her relationship with him improves as both talk honestly about their feelings.

5th-9th Hunter, Evan. ME AND MR. STENNER. Lippincott, 1976.
Abby is often very cruel as she grows to understand and to love her new stepfather. Includes the time of divorce for both parents and then the remarriage and honeymoon.

4th-7th Jones, Cordelia. CAT CALLED CAMOUFLAGE. S.G. Phillips, 1971.
After finally beginning to adjust to her new home, Ruth began to suspect her parents might reconcile. She wanted that, but remembering the fights, she also feared it. There is very little frank discussion between parent and child.

6th-up T Klein, Norma. IT'S NOT WHAT YOU EXPECT. Pantheon, 1973.
A "liberated" family weathers dad's three month "absence."

4th-8th Klein, Norma. TAKING SIDES. Pantheon, 1974.
Real people cope with separation after remarriage. Father is portrayed as a nurturing person. Avon Pb.

5th-9th T Klein, Norma. MOM, THE WOLFMAN AND ME. Pantheon, 1972.
Brett and her mother, who has never been married, live a happy but non-traditional life. Brett begins to worry when her mother starts dating and may marry. Avon Pb.

5th-9th Klein, Norma. WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT? Dial Press, 1975.
Many complicated family changes confront a 10 year old girl, including a stepfather who leaves when an adopted sister joins the family.

2nd-4th Lisker, Sonia. TWO SPECIAL CARDS. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1976.
Young children adjust to their parents' divorce. Story portrays father visiting children and a loving mother in a realistic way.

2nd-4th * Madison, Winifred. MARINKA, KATINKA AND ME (SUSIE). Bradbury Press, 1975.
Portrays friendship among three fourth grade girls whose non-traditional families are accepted as they are. Susie's father is dead, Marinka's parents are divorced and Katinka's father is in prison. Puts realistic problems, including divorce, in perspective.

3rd-6th * Mann, Peggy. MY DAD LIVES IN A DOWNTOWN HOTEL. Doubleday, 1973.
Since both parents are careful to assure him they do not blame one another for their divorce, Joey concludes that he is the cause. Gradually Joey learns to face reality and cope with life as it is. Basis for an After School Special on ABC TV. Avon Pb.

6th-9th Mazer, Harry. GUY LENNY. Delacorte Press, 1971. Dell Pb.
Twelve year old Guy lives with his father and rebels mightily when father wishes to remarry. His father decides that Guy should live with his mother, at least for a while. Harsh realities following divorce are portrayed in this book.

4th-9th T Mazer, Norma. I, TRISSY. Delacorte, 1971
Trissy uses her typewriter to vent frustrations about her parents' divorce and problems brought on by her selfishness and unwillingness to understand her parents. Finally she begins to question her own identity and becomes better able to face these troubles.

5th-8th * McHargue, Georgess. STONEFLIGHT. Viking Press, 1975.
Janie suspected a divorce but no one would talk to her. She wished she were like the stone Griffon which "cannot be hurt." Through her uncle, she becomes included in family discussions of the problem.

6th-up T Naylor, Phyllis. NO EASY CIRCLE. Follet, 1972.
Teenagers whose parents have divorced will identify with the young girl in this story as she faces problems with her peers as well as her parents.

5th-up T Neville, Emily Cheney. GARDEN OF BROKEN GLASS. Delacorte, 1975.
Thirteen year old Brian grows in awareness of others as he finds ways to live despite an absent father and an alcoholic mother. Considered outstanding by the Child Study Association of America · Wel-Met Incorporated.

3rd-5th
*
F
Newfield, Marcia. A BOOK FOR JODAN. Antheneum, 1975.
Jodan, nine, doesn't believe her parents' reassurances of their love for her after their separation. Both parents work to promote her constructive adjustment, even though father lives across the country. Details an excellent, creative project for fathers.

4th-6th
Norris, Gunilla. LILLAN. Atheneum, 1968.
Many will identify with fears that mother's full time job will damage her relationship with her daughter. With mother's help, Lillan becomes more self-reliant and able to meet the needs of the situation.

5th-9th
Perl, Lila. THE TELLTALE SUMMER OF TINA C. Seabury Press, 1975.
Trying to untangle the confusing relationships of divorce and remarriage, Tina begins to understand her loved ones. Portrays positive, open relationships with both parents.

5th-up
*
Pevsner, Stella. A SMART KID LIKE YOU. Seabury Press, 1975.
A realistic view of some aftereffects of divorce. Nina finds her new Math teacher is her father's new wife. This was an After School TV Special.

5th-9th
T
Pfeffer, Susan Beth. MARLY THE KID. Doubleday & Co., 1975.
During her sophomore year, Marly acts courageously. She decides to live with her father instead of her mother and also refuses to tolerate insulting remarks from her History teacher. The stepmother is an even tempered, positive figure.

7th-up
T
Platt, Kin. THE BOY WHO COULD MAKE HIMSELF DISAPPEAR. Chilton, 1968, Dell Pb. Also CHLORIS AND THE CREEPS.
These two stories are complicated, unusual and somewhat painful about young people coping with divorce and remarriage. There is partial resolution of extremely negative situations and behavior. Not for those actually experiencing the acute stages of loss.

5th-9th
Sachs, Marilyn. THE BEAR'S HOUSE. Doubleday, 1971
Ghastly and emotional situations confront a young girl and her older brother who take responsibility for younger children and a mentally ill mother after father leaves. Painful to read, but value may lie in realizing that others have more terrible problems than you have.

5th-8th
Sheffield, Janet N. NOT JUST SUGAR AND SPICE. William Morrow and Co., 1975.
Lani is jealous, selfish and losing friends rapidly. Only to get rid of a domineering housekeeper does she decide to pull herself together, cooperate with her future stepfather, and help out while her mother is in the hospital.

5th-9th
*
Smith, Doris. KICK A STONE HOME. Crowell, 1974.
After three years, Sara Jane still hopes her father will come back. She hates visiting him and his new wife and has no one with whom to share her feelings. Gradually, negativism and resentment toward the remarriage soften. Positive portrayal of real people.

5th-8th
Snyder, Zilpha Keatley. HEADLESS CUPID. Atheneum, 1971.
Fun and intrigue result when stepbrothers and sisters begin adjusting to each other and to their new parents.

ALL AGES * Sitea, Linda. "Zachary's Divorce" in FREE TO BE ME. McGraw Hill. 1974.
This entire book is an absolutely delightful look at children's emotions and values aimed at self-acceptance. Zachary's story about "his" divorce is simple, but captures the feelings of a small boy.

7th-up * T Stolz, Mary. LEAP BEFORE YOU LOOK. Harper & Row, 1972. Dell Pb.
The young heroine lives with her mother and has difficulty adjusting to her father's remarriage. A friend helps her to reconcile her feelings.

5th-9th F Sullivan, Mary. BLUE GRASS IGGY. Nelson, 1975.
Iggy makes friends in the trailer camp where he lives with his father.

6th-9th Thorval, Kerstin. AND LEFFE WAS INSTEAD OF A DAD. Bradbury Press, 1974.
Magnus' mother lives with Leffe, who becomes the dad that Magnus always wanted. When Leffe began drinking again, there was the chance that he would leave or break parole. An unusual story with warmth and understanding, translated from the Swedish original.

3rd-5th Wagner, Jane. J. T. Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1969. Dell Pb.
A boy has a difficult adjustment to the changes and problems heightened by his father's absence. Outside help, including a cat, aid in the process.

4th-6th F Warren, Mary Phraner. THE HAUNTED KITCHEN. Westminster Press, 1976.
After the divorce, Dad decides to go back to school. He and his three children move to Oregon and live in what appears to be a haunted house. Children coping with reality and working cooperatively are portrayed.

5th-8th Wolitzer, Hilma. OUT OF LOVE. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1976.
Two years after the divorce, Teddy is still scheming to reunite her parents, through illness and by crusading to better her mother's appearance. Rather superficial characterization, but emotions seem genuine.

---------- NONFICTION PUBLICATIONS FOR CHILDREN ----------

These books are for readers about 4th grade and up, including <u>parents</u>.

* Gardner, Richard. THE BOYS AND GIRLS BOOK ABOUT DIVORCE. Science House, Inc., 1971. Bantam Pb.
The classic for children AND parents. Handles simply and directly the anxieties and reactions that children may experience. Gives children straight answers and practical suggestions about handling themselves and making the best of the situation. The cartoon illustrations are explicit, delightful, and enhance the massage of the text. Much of the book could be read to younger children.

Hautzig, Esther. LIFE WITH WORKING PARENTS. Macmillan, 1976.
Practical hints for children for every day situations. Since routines may change after separation and divorce, it could be useful for single parent families. Individual families may wish to do things differently, but it can be used as a starting point for family discussions.

Kalb, Jonah and David Viscott. WHAT EVERY KID SHOULD KNOW. Houghton Mifflin Co., 1976.
Practical discussions which direct children trying to understand their feelings, inadequacies, relationships with parents and friends, and their parents' divorce. Includes a Bill of Rights For Kids...with corresponding responsibilities. Worthwhile for parents, too.

Leshan, Eda. WHAT MAKES ME FEEL THIS WAY? Macmillan, 1972.
In this little book, emotions are identified and discussed in terms that children can understand. A book for parents and children to read together.

Leshan, Eda. YOU AND YOUR FEELINGS. Macmillan, 1975. A guide for young people to better understand their feelings and their relationships with others. A good book for junior high level.

* Richards, Arlene and Irene Willis. HOW TO GET IT TOGETHER WHEN YOUR PARENTS T ARE COMING APART. David McKay, 1976.
This book gives examples of what young adults and teens may need to cope with during their parents' marital troubles, separation, divorce and after. The emphasis is on awareness of feelings, coping skills and reassurance that they are able to take responsibility for their own lives. The stories are forthright, actual happenings that nearly everyone can identify with. That teens have choices in how they will allow parental troubles to affect them is refreshing and positive. The messages are not patronizing: "It doesn't matter so much what your problems are; what really counts is how you handle them."

* Rosenbaum, Jean and Lutie McAuliffe. WHAT IS FEAR? AN INTRODUCTION TO FEELINGS. Prentice-Hall, 1972.
Clear and sensitive discussion of common fears, understanding them and handling them. Divorce is briefly touched on. Excellent for parents who want to better understand their children and why they do things.

-------- NON FICTION BOOKS FOR PARENTS - SEPARATION AND DIVORCE ----------

Many of the older books were written at a time when society and mental health professionals pressured parents to continue as a nuclear family at all costs. While no one denies a child will benefit by growing up in a happy two parent home, the attitudes of many professionals induced needless guilt and expectations of permanent damage to children of divorcing parents. In the majority of divorces, the children survive quite well if treated honestly, with compassion and understanding, and if parents have the conviction that the children will be able to handle the changed situations. Some recent books with sections about children reflect this optimistic outlook: that the criteria for a functioning family are the qualities of the relationships rather then the structure.

* Catlin, Nancy. "Some Do's and Don'ts for Single Parents," from THE SINGLE PARENT, July/August, 1974. Journal of Parents Without Partners, Inc.
Sensible guidelines in a brief article.

Gardner, Richard. THE PARENTS BOOK ABOUT DIVORCE. Doubleday, 1977.
Psychoanalytically oriented, the author discusses possible problems in depth and at length. Beware that you don't begin to project some of the problems onto your children or that you anticipate some that are non-existent. There are good warnings on using children as weapons and healthy guidelines for visitation. The book includes a chapter on therapy for children (citing greatest benefit through joint therapy with both parents) and an interesting last chapter discussing modern marriage and divorce.

* Gettleman, Susan and Janet Markowitz. THE COURAGE TO DIVORCE. Simon and Schuster, 1974. Pb.
The authors attempt to dispell fears that children are permanently damaged by divorce, that parents should feel guilty, or that children should be pitied. They look on divorce as a liberation and an opportunity for increased personal growth for both adults and children.

Grollman, Earl. TALKING ABOUT DIVORCE: A DIALOGUE BETWEEN PARENT AND CHILD. Beacon Press, 1975.
A book to facilitate discussion between parents and children. It includes resources and sources for further information.

* Krantzler, Mel. CREATIVE DIVORCE. M. Evans & Co., 1974. Pb.
Refreshing yet realistic assessment of children's reactions to divorce. Children, too, must mourn the "death of the parents' relationship." The author tells what to expect, how long negative reactions might last, and relates some tested ideas how to improve relationships with children. He feels it may be a positive event and hopefully an opportunity for growth for all concerned.

Weiss, Robert S. MARITAL SEPARATION. Basic Books, 1975.
Discussion and verbatim reports of the realities of parenting alone. Selections typify positive as well as less successful ways of coping, and are what you might hear if you were listening in on a group discussion. Points out excessive sensitivity of custodial parent to signs of behavior problems, overload of roles, tasks and responsibilities, and things some do to solve problems, including the parent having some time away from the children.

Despert, J. Louise. CHILDREN OF DIVORCE. Doubleday, 1962. Avon Pb.
An older classic with some good advice.

THE SINGLE PARENT magazine contains articles by professionals on subjects of interest to single parents. Articles are also written by single parents who have successfully managed divorce with children.

Write PWP for SINGLE PARENT subscription information, for location of PWP Chapters, or for other helpful materials or pamphlets.

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April 25, 1977

Educational Resources Information Center
National Institute of Education
Washington D.C. 20208

Dear Sir:

We would like to submit the enclosed SEPARATION AND DIVORCE: ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF SELECTED LITERATURE FOR CHILDREN AND TEENS WITH RECOMMENDED READING FOR PARENTS for consideration for announcement in Resources in Education and the ERIC system.

In using ERIC, we have discovered a BIBLIOGRAPHY ON DIVORCE. The enclosed might be of special interest to teachers, counselors, school librarians and others who work with single parent families.

I have enclosed two printed copies and a Xerox copy of the original. If other types of copy are necessary, please let us know.

Sincerely yours,

Ann Parks
Information Center

Enclosures

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